areas which were formerly meant for the public sector have been privatised or are in the process of being privatised. In view of this, does the hon. Minister hold the view that the demands of the public sector workers are unfounded?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: Sir, Government considers that the strike launched, resorted to by the public sector....

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I am not talking about the strike. I am talking about their demands. He has given the answer about the demands and when he gives the answer, he should be careful about it.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: I have been very careful about the words and expressions that I have used in my reply. Sir, the demands....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a professor ....Both are professors.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: They are more detailed.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I am a professor by right.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: The hon. Member knows that there is a machinery for negotiation and the Government, as such, does not come into the picture when wage negotiations take place. It is the individual PSUs which come into the picture and the demands of employees are always presented.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase in production of HMT watches

*65. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether HMT is expected to increase the output of its watches and if so, what are the details of its expansion plans; and

(b) whether Titan Watch, a joint sector project of Karnataka Government and Tatas is also entering into a collaboration agreement for production of Casio Watches in India and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) As against a production of 45.34 lakh watches in 1985-86, HMT plans to increase its watch production as follows:—

Year	Annual estimated Production (Nos. in lakhs)
1986-87 . . .	50.00
1987-88 . . .	60.00
1988-89 . . .	61.80
1989-90 . . .	61.80

(b) Tht Departments of Electronics and Industrial Development have not received any proposal from M/s. Titan Watches Ltd., for entering into a collaboration agreement for manufacture of Casio Watches in India.

Withdrawing concession on white cement

*66. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had received any representation from cement manufacturers requesting it to recommend to the Finance Ministry for withdrawal of the concessions in customs duty of cement in view of the comfortable production and supply position in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In terms of Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue Notification dated 28th February 1982, a con-

cessional rate of basic customs duty of 10 per cent *ad-valorem* and auxiliary duty of customs at 5 per cent *ad-valorem* was leviable on cement including white cement. Certain representations from manufacturers of white cement were received in the end of 1984 and in the beginning of 1985 requesting for enhancement of customs duty on white cement. Keeping in view the increased indigenous production of white cement in the country and the fact that white cement was considered as a luxury item catering to the requirements of affluent section of the population, the customs duty on white cement was enhanced to 60 per cent *ad-valorem* plus 40 per cent auxiliary duty of customs. Additional countervailing duty equal to excise duty of 40 per cent was also leviable.

Surplus staff in public sector units

*69. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector units are saddled with surplus staff affecting their productivity and working;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a 'Golden hand shake scheme' in these units to relieve the surplus staff; and

(c) what are the details of the scheme and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) to (c) In many public sector units, employees become surplus consequent on implementation of modernisation and product rationalisation schemes, etc., from time to time. Some enterprises had introduced voluntary retirement schemes to deal with such situations with diverse experience. These schemes differ from enterprise to enterprise.

Report of working group on energy conservation

*70. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 644 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1984 and state:

(a) what are the major recommendations of the working group on energy conservation headed by the Secretary, Heavy Industry; and

(b) whether these recommendations have since been processed and accepted by the Government and implemented by the concerned departments and organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Working Group has made a number of suggestions regarding conservation of energy in the industrial, transport and agricultural sectors. These suggestions incorporate short-term and long-term measures which *inter-alia* include introduction of energy audits in industries, installation of waste-heat recovery and co-generation systems, equipment and process modifications, rectification of inefficient agricultural pumpsets and adoption/development of newer energy efficiency technologies in the industries and transport sectors. The Working Group has also stressed the need for an effective organisational set up, a revolving fund, fiscal incentives, educational and awareness campaigns, and the labelling of energy consumed by different equipment.

The energy conservation strategy of the Government encompasses most of these suggestions and action has been initiated on various fronts in pursuance of the same. Since most of the recommendations are basically indicative of the directions in which Government's efforts towards conservation of energy have to be channelised, their implementation will be a continuing process.